

STATE OF MAINE

DISTRICT COURT

Location: _____

Docket No.: _____

Plaintiff

v.

Defendant

**ORDER APPOINTING
GUARDIAN AD LITEM
4 M.R.S. § 1555**

1. APPOINTMENT

- A. Pursuant to 4 M.R.S. § 1555 and 19-A M.R.S. § 1507(1) and subject to the conditions set forth below, the Court appoints _____, a person rostered to serve as a Guardian ad Litem (“GAL”) in Maine, whose address is _____, to serve as a GAL for the child(ren) in this matter whose name(s) and date(s) of birth are as follows: _____
- B. The appointment is in effect until vacated by Order of the Court.
- C. The GAL’s appointment is ☐ agreed ☐ not agreed to by the parties. If the parties do not agree to the appointment of the GAL, the Court’s findings supporting the appointment of the GAL are as follows: _____
- _____
- _____

2. FEE ARRANGEMENT

- A. The fee arrangement for payment of the GAL is ☐ agreed ☐ not agreed to by the parties. If the parties do not agree to the fee arrangement for payment of the GAL, the Court’s findings supporting the fee payment order are as follows: _____
- _____
- _____
- B. Payment for the services of the GAL is the responsibility of the parties, with the terms of payment specified in this Order. The GAL will be paid ☐ an hourly rate of \$_____. ☐ a flat fee of \$_____.
☐ GAL is providing services pro bono.
- C. Plaintiff is ordered to pay the GAL an initial payment of \$_____ on or before _____ and then payments of \$_____ monthly towards the GAL’s expenses.
- D. Defendant is ordered to pay the GAL an initial payment of \$_____ on or before _____ and then payments of \$_____ monthly towards the GAL’s expenses.
- E. The GAL’s fees, including the initial payment in paragraph C and D, shall not exceed \$_____ absent either: (a) a further Order of the Court **or** (b) a written agreement of the parties filed with the Court.
- F. If the initial payments, if any, are not paid as ordered, the GAL shall notify the court, and the Court may vacate this Order or take such other action it determines appropriate under the circumstances.

THIS FORM MAY NOT BE ALTERED OR MODIFIED

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

A. Absent further order of the Court, the GAL's duties are specifically limited as follows:

☒ The GAL shall perform the mandatory statutory duties set forth in 19-A M.R.S. § 1507(3)(A) and 4 M.R.S. § 1554(3);

☐ The GAL shall investigate the following specific issues: _____

_____;

☐ The GAL shall be required to interview only the following individuals: _____

_____;

☐ The GAL's written report shall include recommendations on the following topics: _____

_____.

B. The GAL shall spend no more than _____ hours on the investigation absent either: (a) further Order for the Court **or** (b) written agreement of the parties filed with the Court.

C. The GAL shall prepare (a preliminary written report by _____ and) a final report to the parties and the court no later than 14 days prior to the final hearing.

D. Given the confidential nature of the material that may be reviewed by the GAL, all of the GAL's reports shall be confidential and sealed after the report is submitted to the court and to the parties. The reports shall not be disclosed by the parties or the GAL or further released by the Court, except as otherwise ordered by the Court.

E. The parents in this matter shall cooperate with the GAL. ☐ The parties are hereby ordered to sign releases granting the GAL access to the following specific types of records regarding following specific individuals:

☐ _____ (party's name); type of records: ☐ mental health ☐ medical

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☐ _____

(child(ren)'s name(s)); type of records: ☐ medical ☐ mental health ☐ education

The Clerk is directed to incorporate this Order by reference into the docket for this case, pursuant to M.R. Civ. P., Rule 79(a).

Date: _____

Judge/ Magistrate, Maine District Court

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